



**Frederick County  
Government  
Frederick, Maryland**

# *News Release*

Winchester Hall / 12 East Church Street  
Frederick, Maryland 21701  
CONTACT: Robin K. Santangelo  
Public Information Officer  
301-600-2590  
rsantangelo@FrederickCountyMD.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 12, 2015

## **COUNTY EXECUTIVE GARDNER ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO ETHICS TASK FORCE**

FREDERICK, MD – Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner today announced appointments to an Ethics Task Force consisting of citizens with an interest or experience in ethics rules and regulations either in the private sector or in government. The task force will review the Frederick County Ethics Ordinance and other related documents and make recommendations on amending the ordinance to the county executive and County Council within 120 days or sooner.

County Executive Gardner said, “I pledged during my campaign to re-establish citizen trust in county government to restore an open and transparent public process. Our citizens expect high standards by those who are elected to public office and I am confident that the changes recommended by the task force will be in the best interest of the public good. I am very pleased that 38 residents applied to volunteer on our Ethics Task Force to help us revise the Ethics Ordinance for Frederick County. Creation of this independent task force and review of the ordinance is one of my top priorities.”

Topics of discussion for the task force will include consideration of a code of professional conduct for elected officials, which could be a policy separate from the ethics regulation; strengthening conflict-of-interest provisions to make it clear that county elected officials cannot profit from their positions or do business with the county; the addition of civil and criminal penalties for serious ethics violations, and other related issues such as improving campaign finance provisions.

(more)

***County Executive Gardner Announces Appointments to Ethics Task Force – Page Two***

Those Executive Gardner appointed to the task force include: Karl Bickel, Jo Ann Brown, Donald Foster, Thomas Gill, Jesse Goode, Kevin Grubb, Diana Halleman, Dr. Sayd Haque, John Helms, Craig Hicks, Anne Leffler, Rev. Conrad Link, Linda Norris-Waldt, Nancy Pluhowski and John Shatto.

In addition, County Council President Bud Otis will serve as the representative from the council and Ethics Commission Chairman Gwen Romack as the representative from the commission.

Council President Otis added, “I also wish to thank all those who applied to serve on the task force and encourage our citizens to follow our discussions and recommendations closely. Our desire is to carefully review the past, present and proposed ethics provisions with the goal of strengthening our Ethic Ordinance.”

Recommendations from the task force will be sent to the state ethics commission for comment prior to drafting a new local ordinance.

For additional information, contact Senior Assistant County Attorney Linda Thall at 301-600-1633 or via e-mail at [lthall@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:lthall@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

###